

Remarks

Claims 1-10 and 12-18 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4 are amended, claim 11 is canceled and claims 16-18 are added. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Bui in the November 10 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,588,976 to Quenzi et al. ("Quenzi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to claim 1, as agreed during the interview, Quenzi does not disclose a joint structure that is one of a gimbal joint and a universal joint as recited in claim 1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is patentably distinct.

Claim 4 recites *inter alia*, a standoff sensor that detects and maintains a pre-determined distance between an object and the media discharge port. The exit port ("media discharge port") of the telescoping tube assembly of Quenzi is set at a fixed distance above a floor ("object") via support members 16 and 18. This distance does not change. Therefore, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, the standoff sensor is not "inherent", because, due to the fixed distance between the exit port and the floor, a sensor is not necessary to maintain the distance.

Furthermore, the disclosure of an electronic level sensor, relied upon by the Office Action as a teaching of a "standoff sensor," is in the context of Quenzi's Figs. 6-10, which do not show a media discharge device with a media discharge port. Rather, these figures show a concrete screeding device. Therefore, it is impossible that the electronic level sensor

of Quenzi "maintains a predetermined distance between [a] media discharge port and an object."

Since Quenzi does not expressly teach a standoff sensor, between an object and the media discharge port, and since the Office Action does not otherwise establish that a sensor must be present, claim 4 of the present application are, as agreed during the interview, patentably distinct from Quenzi.

Claims 5-8 are allowable for their dependence on claim 4, and for additional features they recite. For example, claim 5 recites that the sensor "detects a distance"...there is certainly no need in Quenzi to detect a distance, since the distance is always the same. Claim 7 recites a user input device through which a user may input a desired value corresponding to the predetermined distance. The Office Action asserts that Fig. 8 of Quenzi discloses these features, but this is not correct. Fig. 8 shows a user operating a device, but in the description of Fig. 8 in the specification, there is absolutely no disclosure or suggestion of the subject matter of any of claims 4-8.

New claim 16 recites, *inter alia* "the telescoping device being supported at only a single point." As agreed during the interview, this is different from the disclosure of Quenzi in that Quenzi requires two separate support units to support and maneuver the tube assembly.

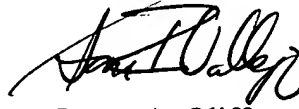
New dependent claim 17 recites, *inter alia*, the "joint structure is one of a gimbal joint and a universal joint." This joint structure is different from the joint structure disclosed in Quenzi. Therefore, as well as for its dependence on allowable claim 16, claim 17 is allowable over the cited reference.

New claim 18 recites, *inter alia*, a telescoping member having a first end and a second end, a media discharge port provided at the first end and a counter weight provided near the second end and suspended in mid-air. As agreed during the interview, Quenzi clearly does not disclose such a counterweight.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-10 and 12-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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